

May 28, 1957

Dear Bill:

You will recall that for some time we have been discussing the possibility of installing a Veeder-Root type counter on the supply reel of the [REDACTED]. The purpose of this is to indicate the amount of time available for recording on the supply reel.

The engineering department looked into this matter quite carefully, as it was part of the job of the custom products to supply such things. During the play mode, the function of the supply reel is to provide a constant holdback tension as the tape is unrolled, and there is no power supplied to the supply reel. If a counter were attached to the supply system, it would detract from the power available to provide a smooth holdback tension and would introduce so much flutter that the machine would not be attractive to the user. It is for this reason that it is considered impossible to attach a counter to the [REDACTED]. A far better system and one which we [REDACTED] strongly recommended was to prepare a cardboard plate which could be cemented underneath the turntable and extending out in a radial fashion. On this cardboard would be a series of marks which when compared with the edge of the tape remaining on the reel could indicate the playing time available. Such a system, of course, does not affect the flutter and can be considered superior in that it indicates available time directly. The counter type indicator would, of course, be arbitrary numbers and would have to be translated by chart or graph to the available playing time remaining.

I hope that this dissertation has been helpful and if you have any further questions, please call me.

Kindest personal regards,

MCS:mdt

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